



# Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray

## Why in News?

Recently, **Ministry of Culture** organised a curtain raiser for two days International Conference on the “**Contributions of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray as a Chemist and Freedom Fighter**” at the **Department of Chemistry, Delhi**.

## What do we know about the Conference?

### ▪ About:

- The Conference will be held on the **161<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray** on 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, under the aegis of [Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav](#).
- **The Department of Chemistry** is celebrating its centenary year along with the **University of Delhi and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA)** is going to organize jointly with **Indraprastha Vigyan Bharti, New Delhi and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi**.

### ▪ Objective:

- Expand the **legacy and contribution** of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray in Society, with an aim to **increase general awareness** and background of **ancient chemistry** along with its importance.
  - It is unexpected that the **government** is updating the **education system from the traditional concept of the 1980's** to align with the **aspirational goals of 21<sup>st</sup> century education including SDG4 (Quality Education)**, while building upon India's traditions and value systems.

## Who was Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray?

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- Known as **“Father of Indian Chemistry”**, Profulla Chandra Ray (1861-1944) was a well-known **Indian scientist and teacher** and one of the first **“modern”** Indian chemical researchers.
- Originally trained at the **University of Edinburgh**, he worked for many years at **Presidency College in Calcutta and then at Calcutta University**.
- He discovered the stable compound **Mercurous Nitrite in 1895**.
- The British Government **first honored him with the imperial title of CIE (Companion of the Indian Empire)**, and then with the **Knighthood in 1919**.
- In 1920, he was elected **General President of the Indian Science Congress**.
- As a nationalist **he also wanted the Bengalis to come up in the world of enterprise**.
  - He himself set an example by establishing a **chemical firm called the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works (1901)**.
- He was a true rationalist and was completely **against the caste system and other irrational social systems**. He persistently carried on this work of social reformation till he passed away.
- A **postage stamp** was issued on him by **India Post on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1961** to commemorate his Birth Anniversary.

**Source: PIB**